

MEDIA RELEASE

12 April 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE REPORTING

CPE collaborates with New Zealand Qualifications Authority to Raise Standards in Private Education

1. The Council for Private Education (CPE) Singapore and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) have signed a Memorandum of Co-operation (MOC). Through this agreement, the CPE and NZQA will collaborate to enhance regulation and quality assurance in both jurisdictions to improve the quality of private education institutions in Singapore and non-university tertiary training providers in New Zealand.
2. The MOC was signed by Mr Brandon Lee, Chief Executive Officer of the CPE, and Dr Karen Poutasi, Chief Executive Officer of NZQA on the 5 February 2013.
3. Over the next three years, the CPE and NZQA will draw on each other's expertise and experiences and exchange information in the regulation and quality assurance of private education providers in Singapore and New Zealand.
4. As part of the MOC, the CPE hosted a visit by NZQA on 12 April 2013 and had a fruitful exchange on its regulatory approach towards managing Singapore's Private Education Institutions (PEIs), Quality Assurance Framework, as well as Dispute Resolution Framework. Of specific interest to the NZQA was Singapore's EduTrust Certification requirements and its Fee Protection Scheme.
5. NZQA Chief Executive Dr Karen Poutasi said the MOC provides benefits for both organisations. "NZQA values the opportunity to learn from other education organisations and how they apply best practice to raising the performance of tertiary organisations and promoting student achievement. Exchanging ideas and experiences with the CPE will be a valuable exercise for NZQA."

6. Likewise, the CPE will be sending a team to New Zealand at the end of this month to observe the external evaluation and review (EER)¹ of a private training establishment conducted by NZQA. This mutual sharing of practices and experiences will help to strengthen ties between officers across both agencies and serve as a platform for further collaborations in future. In addition, such exchanges provide CPE officers with the opportunity to learn directly from the experiences of CPE's counterparts in other jurisdictions.

7. Mr Brandon Lee, Chief Executive Officer of the CPE, said, "The CPE and NZQA share a similar mission to regulate and ensure the quality of education delivered by private providers. This agreement will enable both agencies to exchange information and expertise and learn from each other's experiences."

¹ The EER is the standard process adopted by NZQA for reviewing the current quality of performance within tertiary education organisations in New Zealand.

About the Council for Private Education

The Council for Private Education (CPE) is a statutory board established in December 2009 to regulate the private education industry. Its mission is to raise standards in the private education sector through effective regulation, industry development and consumer education. To achieve this, the Council has implemented two schemes – the mandatory Enhanced Registration Framework and the EduTrust Certification scheme – to uplift and maintain standards in the private education sector. Besides its role as a sectoral regulator, the Council also provides student services and public education through its Student Services Centre, and seeks to enhance the capabilities and quality of the private education sector through industry development.

For more information, please visit CPE's website at <http://www.cpe.gov.sg/>

About the New Zealand Qualifications Authority

NZQA's role in the education sector is to ensure that New Zealand qualifications are regarded as credible and robust, nationally and internationally, in order to help learners succeed in their chosen endeavours and to contribute to New Zealand society.

NZQA is responsible for

- managing the New Zealand Qualifications Framework
- administering the secondary school assessment system
- independent quality assurance of non-university education providers
- qualifications recognition and standard-setting for some specified unit standards.

For more information, please visit NZQA's website at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/>

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For media enquiries, please contact:

Andy Ong
Manager, Corporate Communications
Council for Private Education
Tel: 6499 0363
Email: Andy_Ong@cpe.gov.sg

Lloyd Quartermaine
Team Leader - Communications
New Zealand Qualifications Authority
Tel: 04 463 4280
Media desk: 0274 575 783
Email: Lloyd.Quartermaine@nzqa.govt.nz